

14-110, 14-109, 14-108, 14-107, 14-106, 14-105, 14-104, 15-110, 15-109, 15-108, 15-107, 15-106, 15-105, 15-104, 16-110, 16-109, 16-108, 16-107, 16-106, 16-105, 16-104, 17-110, 17-109, 17-108, 17-107, 17-106, 17-105, 17-104, 18-110, 18-109, 18-108, 18-107, 18-106, 18-105, or 18-104 of SEQ ID NO: 2;

or variants and derivatives thereof; provided however, that when the truncated sTNFR polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 3-110, 4-110, 5-110, 6-110, 7-110, 8-110, 9-110, 10-110, 11-110, 12-110, 13-110, 14-110, 15-110, 16-110, 17-110, or 18-110 of SEQ ID NO: 2, the polypeptide does not further comprise amino acid residues 111-161 of SEQ ID NO: 2, or a portion thereof; and optionally further comprising an amino-terminal methionine.

2. (Amended) A tumor necrosis binding protein comprising the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 10, or SEQ ID NO: 14; or a variant or derivative thereof.

3. (Amended) A truncated sTNFR polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1-122, 1-121, 1-120, 1-119, 1-118, 1-117, 1-116, 2-122, 2-121, 2-120, 2-119, 2-118, 2-117, 2-116, 3-122, 3-121, 3-120, 3-119, 3-118, 3-117, 3-116, 4-122, 4-121, 4-120, 4-119, 4-118, 4-117, 4-116, 5-122, 5-121, 5-120, 5-119, 5-118, 5-117, 5-116, 6-122, 6-121, 6-120, 6-119, 6-118, 6-117, 6-116, 7-122, 7-121, 7-120, 7-119, 7-118, 7-117, 7-116, 8-122, 8-121, 8-120, 8-119, 8-118, 8-117, 8-116, 9-122, 9-121, 9-120, 9-119, 9-118, 9-117, 9-116, 10-122, 10-121, 10-120, 10-119, 10-118, 10-117, 10-116, 11-122, 11-121, 11-120, 11-119, 11-118, 11-117, 11-116, 12-122, 12-121, 12-120, 12-119, 12-118, 12-117, 12-116, 13-122, 13-121, 13-120, 13-119, 13-118, 13-117, 13-116, 14-122, 14-121, 14-120, 14-119, 14-118, 14-117, 14-116, 15-122, 15-121, 15-120, 15-119, 15-118, 15-117, 15-116, 16-122, 16-121, 16-120, 16-119, 16-118, 16-117, 16-116, 17-122, 17-121, 17-120, 17-119, 17-118, 17-117, 17-116, 18-122, 18-121, 18-120, 18-119, 18-118, 18-117, 18-116, 19-122, 19-121, 19-120, 19-119, 19-118, 19-117, 19-116, 20-122, 20-121, 20-120, 20-119, 20-118, 20-117, 20-116, 21-122, 21-121, 21-120, 21-119, 21-118, 21-117, 21-116, 22-122, 22-121, 22-120, 22-119, 22-118, 22-117, 22-116, 23-122, 23-121, 23-120, 23-119, 23-118, 23-117,

23-116, 24-122, 24-121, 24-120, 24-119, 24-118, 24-117, 24-116, 25-122, 25-121, 25-120, 25-119, 25-118, 25-117, 25-116, 26-122, 26-121, 26-120, 26-119, 26-118, 26-117, 26-116, 27-122, 27-121, 27-120, 27-119, 27-118, 27-117, 27-116, 28-122, 28-121, 28-120, 28-119, 28-118, 28-117, 28-116, 29-122, 29-121, 29-120, 29-119, 29-118, 29-117, 29-116, 30-122, 30-121, 30-120, 30-119, 30-118, 30-117, 30-116, 31-122, 31-121, 31-120, 31-119, 31-118, 31-117, or 31-116 of SEQ ID NO: 16;

or variants and derivatives thereof; provided however, that when the truncated sTNFR polypeptide comprises the amino acid residues 15-122, 16-122, 17-122, 18-122, 19-122, 20-122, 21-122, 22-122, 23-122, 24-122, 25-122, 26-122, 27-122, 28-122, 29-122, 30-122, or 31-122 of SEQ ID NO: 16, the polypeptide does not further comprise amino acid residues 123-179 of SEQ ID NO: 16, or a portion thereof;

and optionally further comprising an amino-terminal methionine.

14. (Amended) A nucleic acid molecule encoding a tumor necrosis factor binding protein, comprising a nucleotide sequence that is:

- (a) the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3;
- (b) the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5;
- (c) the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7;
- (d) the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11;
- (e) the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 9;
- (f) the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 13;
- (g) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate in the coding regions or portions thereof of the nucleotide sequence of (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), or (f);
- (h) a nucleotide which hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence of (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), or (g); or
- (i) a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to the nucleotide sequence of (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), or (h);

provided however, that the nucleic acid does not encode a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, the polypeptide does not further comprise amino acid residues 111-